

Draft Environmental Assessment

Land Acquisition for Region 6 Headquarters (Glasgow)

August 2019



**Region 6
1 Airport Road, Glasgow, MT 59230**

Draft

Environmental Assessment CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

- 1. Type of proposed state action:** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) proposes to purchase approximately 3.44 acres adjacent to its existing Region 6 Headquarters in Glasgow. The purpose of this property is to secure space for equipment (including boats, campers and utility trailers) and material storage. Purchasing this property would also provide space for a field course for Hunter and Bowhunter Education classes; however, no live firearms would be used.
- 2. Agency authority for the proposed action:** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
- 3. Anticipated Schedule:** Purchase lot in Fall 2019
Estimated Construction Commencement Date: NA
Estimated Completion Date: NA
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): NA
- 4. Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township – included map):**
The Region 6 Headquarters building, and compound is located within city limits on the northwest end of Glasgow and is accessed off of U.S. Highway 2. The proposed land acquisition lies immediately northeast of the existing Headquarters property (Figure 1). This 3.44-acre property consists of Lots 3 and 4, Carney's 1st Addition to Glasgow, Valley County, Section 2, T28N, R39E.
- 5. Project size -- estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>
(a) Developed:	(d) Floodplain0
Residential0	(e) Productive:
Industrial0	Irrigated cropland0
(existing shop area)0	Dry cropland0
b) OpenSpace/3.44	Forestry0
Woodlands/Recreation	Rangeland.....0
(c) Wetlands/Riparian.....0	Other.....0
Areas	

Region 6 Headquarters Lot Purchase

MONTANA FWP



figure 1. Map showing proposed Headquarters lot purchase.

6. Permits, Funding & Overlapping Jurisdiction.

- (a) Permits:** Not Applicable for land purchase. Any future improvements on this proposed land would be required to meet all local, state and federal regulations and to obtain any necessary permits.

Agency Name _____ Permits _____

(b) Funding:

Agency Name: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Funding Amount: \$40,000

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:
None

Agency Name _____ Type of Responsible _____

- 7. Narrative summary of the proposed action:** This purpose of this action is to secure space for equipment storage to include boats, campers and utility trailers. This space would also be utilized for the storage of various materials, including fencing supplies. The existing storage area is at its capacity with no room for future expansion.

Purchasing these lots would also provide space for a Hunter and Bowhunter Education field course to teach new hunters safe ways to carry firearms in the field (including crossing fences and hunting in a party) along with field skills such as tracking a wounded animal and "shoot/don't shoot" scenarios; however, no live firearms would be utilized on this land.

8. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives:

Alternative A: No Action

Under this alternative the lot adjacent to the FWP Region 6 Headquarters would not be purchased. There would be no additional space for storing equipment and materials. Crowding on the existing storage area would continue to worsen and could eventually lead to renting additional storage space in the future.

Field training for Hunter and Bowhunter Education classes would continue to be taught primarily indoors or outside in the yard next to the Headquarters building.

Alternative B: Proposed Action

This alternative allows for FWP to purchase the 3.44-acre property adjacent to the existing Region 6 Headquarters, which would fulfill the need for additional storage for equipment and materials. Purchasing this land would also provide space for a field course for Hunter and Bowhunter Education students to learn safe hunting and gun handling practices as well as field skills.

9. **Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:**
NA

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Provided
1. Geology and soil quality, stability and moisture			X			
2. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
3. Water quality, quantity and distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		
4. Existing water right or reservation				X		
5. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality			X			A(5)
6. Unique, endangered, or fragile vegetative species				X		
6. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats			X			
7. Unique, endangered, or fragile wildlife or fisheries species				X		
8. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
9. Changes to abundance or movement of species				X		

A (5) If purchased some of this land would be converted to a storage yard resulting in the removal of vegetation.

B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Provided
1. Noise and/or electrical effects				X		
2. Land use			X			B (2)
3. Risk and/or health hazards				X		
4. Community impact				X		
5. Public services/taxes/utilities				X		
6. Potential revenue and/or project maintenance costs				X		
7. Aesthetics and recreation				X		
8. Cultural and historic resources				X		
9. Evaluation of significance				X		
10. Generate public controversy				X		

B (2) Land use would include a storage yard for equipment and materials.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

The proposed action to acquire 3.44 acres next to the FWP Regional Headquarters in Glasgow should have no negative cumulative effect. However, this action does pose a positive cumulative effect by creating more space for equipment and material storage and will provide an area for a field course for Hunter and Bowhunter Education students. This would increase FWP's capacity for doing habitat and access projects as well as giving Hunters and Bowhunter Education students a safe location for a field course to practice safe hunting techniques.

The "No Action Alternative" would not provide FWP with the space needed for storing equipment and materials or allow for a field course for Hunter and Bowhunter Education students. In the future some equipment and materials would need to be stored off site, which will lead to increased cost to rent space. Field training for Hunter and Bowhunter Education students would continue to be taught indoors and on the Headquarters yard.

PART IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Public involvement:

The public will be notified in the following manners to comment on this current EA, the proposed action and alternatives:

- Two public notices in each of these papers: Glasgow Courier and Helena Independent.
- Public notice on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page: <http://fwp.mt.gov>.

Copies of this environmental assessment will be distributed to the neighboring landowners and interested parties to ensure their knowledge of the proposed project.

This level of public notice and participation is appropriate for a project of this scope having limited impacts, many of which can be mitigated.

2. Duration of comment period:

The public comment period will extend for (30) thirty days following the publication of the first legal notice in area newspapers. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., September 20, 2019 and can be mailed to the address below:

PART V. EA PREPARATION

1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.

No. Impacts to the physical environment are very small in scale due to the small size of the lots (3.44 acres) and the fact that it is located within the city limits of Glasgow and situated next to existing office buildings.

2. Person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:

Mark Sullivan, Regional Supervisor, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1 Airport Road, Glasgow, MT 59230, 406-228-3700

3. List of agencies or offices consulted during preparation of the EA: FWP Helena Headquarters.